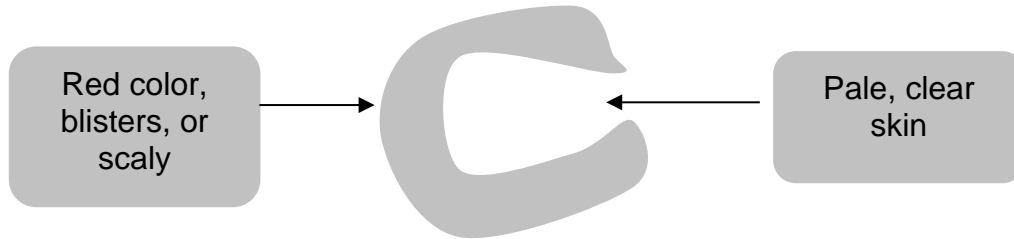


Information Letter - Ring Worm

Every year thousands of children get ringworm (Tinea). Ringworm is contagious and is caused by various fungi. It is spread directly from person to person, animal to person or by touching the lesions or indirectly by means of personal contact with contaminated hands, clothing, towels, or infected animals. The lesions consist of flat, slowly spreading, scaly ring-shaped spots on the skin. The outer margins may be reddish, raised, blistering or pustular and either dry and scaly or moist and crusted. As the lesion progresses, the central area often clears, leaving normal skin.



The fastest and most effective method of treatment is to see your doctor who will prescribe the correct medication or talk to your pharmacist about a topical over-the-counter medication such as Lamisil AT (or Walmart generic version). If the ringworm does not respond to this treatment within a few days, consult your physician or Health Department. Please follow directions exactly. Even if the lesion begins to fade, finish the exact number of doses indicated on the tube. Failure to do so can lead to a new outbreak.

Once treatment has begun, students may attend school, if all lesions are covered with clothing or band-aids. Students who have ring worm and are not receiving regular treatment are not permitted in school. Upon returning to school, the student must check with the school office before attending class.

Frequent hand washing and keeping hands from the lesions are important to stop the spread of this contagious disease. It is necessary to sterilize towels and underclothing in hot soapy water. The use of separate washcloths and towels and the observance of general cleanliness by all members of the household are required to prevent the spread of the infection.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school nurse or your child's doctor.